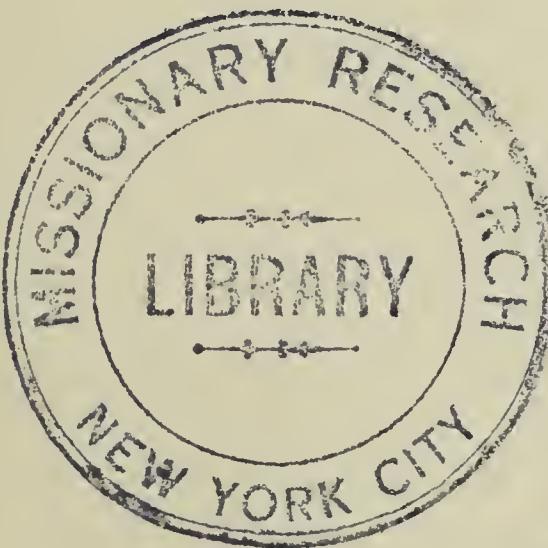


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Mexico
Deputation report

Report of the Joint Deputation to Mexico of The American Baptist Home Mission Society and The Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society



November, 1910

THE WOMAN'S AMERICAN BAPTIST
HOME MISSION SOCIETY
2969 Vernon Avenue Chicago, Ill.

Report of Deputation to Mexico

The Deputation was in Mexico thirty-two days (September 3d to October 5th, 1910). Seven days were devoted to the National Baptist Convention and the National Sunday School and Young People's Convention, the most representative and largest evangelical gatherings ever held in the Republic. We saw also in the capital the opening of the new and noble Y. M. C. A. building by President Porfirio Diaz. Two days were given to the significant and instructive observances with which the centennial celebration of Mexican Independence culminated. The rest of the time we were studying mission work elsewhere in the Republic, from Nuevo Laredo, on the Rio Grande, to Oaxaca, near the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, a thousand miles southward. In all we visited sixteen Baptist mission stations, including two of the Southern Baptist Convention. Incidentally, eight stations of other denominations were visited. At the conventions we were in close touch with the workers of other Baptist fields and had invaluable opportunities of conference with the leaders of other denominations.

In the nature of the case, however, our findings make no pretence of being exhaustive, and the report of them must be put in the briefest form consistent with the seriousness of our mission and with an earnest endeavor to present facts essential to the prosecution of the work.

After calling attention to (1) General Conditions, (2) the Character of Our Workers, (3) Baptist Unity, (4) Relations with Other Denominations, (5) Evangelization, (6) Immediate Advances, (7) Education, (8) Medical Work, (9) Woman's Field Work, (10) Church Edifice Work, (11) American Colonists, (12) Volunteer Work, and (13) Some Guiding Principles, we shall state together our (14) Recommendations for Immediate Action by the Two Societies.

I. General Conditions

General conditions cannot be described in the space at command. Some of them must be merely named, however, both well known and seldom considered conditions, because they are so essential in the missionary situation.

1. The population of Mexico is about 15,000,000, or greater than that of the United States when Abraham Lincoln entered public life. The area is 757,760 square miles, or equal to that of Great Britain, France, Germany and Austria-Hungary all combined. Only a beginning has been made in the development of the agricultural, mineral and other resources of the country.

2. The prevailing religion is Roman Catholicism, but of a type which is so different from the Roman Catholic standard in the United States, that many churchmen going to Mexico cannot in conscience identify themselves with the Church there. Multitudes of the aborigines are not yet within the pale of Christianity. Other multitudes, including many of the influential and best educated men, are distinctly religious.

3. Moral standards among vast numbers of people are distressingly low. It would not be seemly to dwell on what are the undoubted facts in this most vital matter.

4. Church and state are legally divorced so that there is perfect legal freedom for evangelical work. The Hierarchy and the Government are in relations sometimes hostile and sometimes cordial. This relationship and the liberality of public opinion differ greatly in different localities. In two places the present year our workers have suffered persecution at the

hands of incited mobs to the extent not only of chapel wrecking, but also of stoning and other severe personal violence, including shooting. In both cases the local authorities have apologized for the outrages, and promised complete protection in the future. In one place this result was secured in connection with the visit and representations of the Deputation. The 3,000 priests in the country have vast influence. In one crowded city we saw the majority of the people on the streets drop to their knees and remain there till a carriage containing a priest with the elements for administering extreme unction passed out of sight. The Archbishop in his carriage, without the sacred elements, is said to be reverenced in the same way.

5. The influence of evangelical Christianity in Mexico is considerable, much greater than its relative numbers. Estimates as to the number of communicants vary from thirty to sixty thousand. The Deputation instituted measures for ascertaining more closely. In 67 Baptist churches, 2,871 members are reported. It is known that we have more than three thousand communicants. The evangelicals are "like unto leaven hid, till it was all leavened." One great need of Mexico is a middle class, the strength of republics. Such a class has been wanting. Evangelical religion is creating it. The signs of this are unmistakable. The costly Y. M. C. A. building at the capital, erected largely with Mexican money, is significant.

6. The present time is auspicious. Mexico is experiencing tremendous material development. More than that, "Liberty" and "Progress" are in the air, so much so, that those are the two words hung in great letters of electric light on the massive towers of the cathedral itself in Mexico City. The centennial celebration of Mexican independence has accentuated the progressive movement. This is the time to strike with vigor for the complete spiritual liberation of the people.

7. Mexico is the region where one of the supreme tests of the power of Christianity is to be made, its power to regenerate one of the grand divisions of the human race, the American division.

In the United States the human race in its European stock is coming to its highest development, we fondly believe. In Mexico the human race in its truly American stock may well come to its highest development. In the life-tide of our own nation, taken as a whole, there is scarcely a trace of American blood. In Mexico 81 per cent. of the people, including their great President and leading citizens generally, have aboriginal blood in their veins, and 38 per cent. of them are unmixed Americans, like Juarez, their greatest President before Diaz. The people are justly proud of their Indian blood, more so than of their Spanish blood. Your Deputation saw at Mitla the splendid remains of a pre-Columbian civilization, in some respects unmistakably superior to what is even yet the average attainment of European America. Perhaps the most significant features of the centennial pageant in the capital were the long files of Indians in studiously reproduced aboriginal costumes. But the figures themselves were not far fetched nor their faces tinted for the occasion. They were pure-blooded Aztecs and kindred races. Some of the suburbs of the capital itself are peopled with them. We prospected for a mission station in a quarter where ten thousand of them live. In thinking of Mexico we may well be dispossessed of our customary provincial thoughts about Indians and, considering their glorious past and their splendid present here, we do well to eagerly seize the privilege of helping to prove what God can do with real Americans by giving His well-beloved Son a free hand among them.

8. As a denomination we have peculiar obligations to minister in Mexico. The "Reform Laws" separating church and state, which are generally regarded as the fundamental expression of the new life creating modern Mexico are essentially Baptistic. They enunciate the principles which were embodied in civil government for the first time on earth by our Baptist forefathers in the Colony of Rhode Island, the principles which

later spread throughout the United States and are exerting an increasing influence over the whole human race. We are inherently fitted and therefore called upon to minister to Mexico in her present stage of development. When under terrific odds she is asserting our fundamental principle of "soul liberty," our obligation to strengthen her hands is immeasurable. We are under obligation also because our democratic form of church life furnishes the complete and winsome contrast to the ecclesiastical type from which progressive Mexicans are breaking away.

9. It is impossible to justly estimate the work in Mexico without keeping one other general condition in mind. Mexico is the pivotal point of the Kingdom of God in Latin America. There are twenty-one republics on our side of the world. Nearest our own evangelical country is Mexico. It is in every way situated and fitted to become the seed-plot and nursery for the planting of the nineteen republics beyond it. Rome recognizes its natural leadership by recently making the sanctuary of the Virgin of Gaudalupe, near the capital of Mexico, the outranking shrine of all America. By reason of neighborhood with us, by reason of racial and linguistic opportunities with the other republics, by reason of inherited leadership in the higher development of native America, by reason of inherent progressiveness, Mexico is called upon to reinterpret Christianity for all our sister republics on this hemisphere. Members of the Deputation who have visited the lands of the Bible, were impressed with resemblances many and striking in Mexico. This goes beyond outward appearances, remarkable as they are. Biblical life and Mexican life show profound similarities in ways of thinking, feeling and expression. When we give it a full chance the Bible will be most welcome and at home in Mexico. Ultimately Mexicans ought to interpret it to the world better than Anglo-Saxons can. Shall we open our eyes to this unique mission of Mexico and lend a hand at the present critical hour?

II. Character of our Workers

The character of the workers whom God has given us is cause for profound gratitude. The General Missionary combines optimism and energy with caution and persistence. He has rapidly acquired an unusually good use of the Spanish language. Mexican missionaries connected with other societies speak of this. More important still is his appreciation of the people and sympathetic understanding of them. They confidently turn to him as a brother beloved. The entire Deputation is impressed by the evidences of his comprehensive grasp of the field—seeing it whole—and of his impartial administration of details. The advantage to the cause of having a general superintendent of the work is beyond question.

If space permitted it would be a pleasure to speak of every missionary whom we met, both American and Mexican. We expected a high type among the American missionaries and were not disappointed. The Mexican brethren were a revelation to us and a joy. There is a great variety of gifts and of interesting personalities. But without an exception there is a remarkably high standard of ability and of devotion. It is a positive self-denial to us to refrain from describing the charm and strength of Christian character which we found conducting our work in place after place. If Baptists in the North do not back up such people as are in charge of our work in Mexico we are not fit to live. As with all men, and peculiarly with ministers, especially missionaries in foreign lands, the wives are a most vital factor in the work.

III. Baptist Unity

The relations of our missionaries with those of the Foreign Board of the Southern Baptist Convention are ideal: (a) in the Baptist Convention of Mexico where there is no North and no South, but all are one in

Christ Jesus; (b) in the joint publication of a weekly denominational paper, "El Bautista;" (c) in the proposal to have a united Training School for Ministers; (d) in the occupation of fields. When the workers of either Board are in one of the states of the Republic, those of the other Board do not undertake work in that state. Your Deputation expressed to the Mexico Baptist Convention emphatic approval of its methods in this respect and prayer for their unbroken continuance.

IV. Relations with other Denominations

Our relations with other denominations are fraternal. In Sunday School, temperance and evangelistic work there is active co-operation. Many years ago, after repeated conference, an informal agreement was reached that in places of less than thirty thousand population, if one evangelical body is at work there others will not enter. On such a basis as that, at the present rate of advance, it will be a long time before the absolute destitution is overtaken. It would be an advantage in obviating confusion of thought among Mexicans if convenient areas could be allotted among denominations as they are in Porto Rico. If the entire Republic is to be thoroughly leavened with the Gospel an energetic, harmonious advance is needful.

V. Evangelization

Ordinary methods of evangelizing the world such as public preaching, the Sunday School and visiting in the homes are employed with success. Much evangelical work is done in our day schools. Many adults are won, yet our great hope for the evangelization of Mexico lies in the children. Many parents who have not the courage to break with their old customs, yet desire their children to follow our Lord. In the school at Monterey 15 per cent. of all the pupils are converted.

We find that the churches under the direction of the American Baptist Home Mission Society number 21, have 1,141 members, and had 155 baptisms last year. There are 42 other mission stations, some of which are about ready for church organization. We have 16 Mexican men in the service and 5 from the United States. There are 10 Mexican women and 3 from the United States. Comparative figures with churches under other auspices show that for number of workers and money spent we are realizing as large results as any, considerably larger than some. In fact, there is an increase by baptism of 15 per cent.

Our General Missionary and some of our pastors, notably Rev. Alejandro Treviño, have rendered fruitful service in evangelistic campaigns. The students of our Theological School at Monterey have been sent out on pastoral and evangelizing missions during their vacations and with most excellent results. This work ought to be extended as much as possible. Plans are under way whereby during the coming year special meetings will be held in every church and an efficient worker employed to give his entire time to such work.

The development of missionary activity on the part of our Mexican churches is one of the best signs of the success of our work for them. The Convention has been for a year or two supporting a mission among the Indians at Coenea without outside help. There are said to be 5,000,000 Indians in Mexico yet who have not acquired Spanish. The churches have also been contributing generously to our Baptist Home and Foreign Mission Societies. The combined missionary offerings of all the Baptist churches of

the Republic were, last year, \$1,098 (gold) an average of 40 cents per member. When we remember that most of our converts are very poor and their wages pitifully small, we regard it as a remarkable showing. The churches fostered by our Society are not behind others in this regard. At the Convention of 1910 it was decided to support a missionary in Chile at a cost of \$30.00 (gold) each month, and over \$550 were pledged for the Convention's missionary work during the coming year.

VI. Immediate Advances

There are many directions in which we ought to make immediate advance. The following may serve as examples:

At Encarnacion, with a population of 6,000, where our brethren have been violently persecuted, the work should be strengthened. A port of entry for the Republic has 30,000 people and but one small evangelical work, which hardly touches the field. As in other coast towns, the people are inclined to be liberal minded. It is thought that the Tampico results could soon be duplicated here. A suburb of Mexico City has 10,000 people with no work of any sort. The populous state of Oaxaca has only one mission station to every 150,000 people. A city of 100,000 has only one small mission. One city has 20,000 people and absolutely no evangelical work of any kind. But why multiply instances? All over the Republic are large cities manned in a wholly inadequate way, and scores of communities with from 3,000 to 30,000 people each without the Gospel. Two new stations a year ought to be occupied until we have undertaken our full share of responsibility for the evangelization of Mexico.

VII. Education

More than 8,000,000 people in the Republic who have reached their majority can neither read nor write. The educational work carried on by our societies is very limited in extent. At Monterey a theological school is maintained in rented quarters with some twelve students and two instructors. The services of the well-organized church and Sunday School at Monterey, with the various mission stations in connection therewith, serve as a practical laboratory for the students who have, in connection with their studies, weekly training in active mission work. At Monterey, Mexico City and Guadalupe good day schools are maintained by the Woman's Society, and at Puebla a similar school is being maintained, with partial support from the Home Mission Society. The Monterey school is held in the church building, those in Mexico City and Puebla in rented houses. At Oaxaca the wife of our missionary is conducting a day school in the mission house without salary, the equipment having been furnished by the Home Mission Society. This is all that we are doing in an educational way. We own no school property nor has anything been done in the way of advanced education, except in the theological school already mentioned.

Under the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention boarding schools are maintained, one for girls only, at Saltillo, and one for each sex, at Toluca. This Board also maintains a Theological School at Torreon. In these places school properties of considerable value are owned by the Board.

Some opportunity was afforded the Deputation of inspecting educational plants owned by other bodies. In Monterey the Southern Methodists have a well-established school, with two large buildings and a residence for the director. At Coyocan, a suburb of Mexico City, the Foreign Board

of the Northern Presbyterian Church is developing a school for boys. The property consists of some seven acres of land, and there is upon it a handsome church building, a recitation hall substantially built of stone, and two dormitory buildings, besides a president's residence. The entire plant is valued at \$50,000 (gold). The same Board is conducting a boarding school for girls in Mexico City which will soon be removed to new quarters near the boys' school at Coyocan. Under this Board also a day school for both sexes is maintained at Aguascalientes. At Puebla the Methodist Episcopal Church North has a large and well-equipped boarding school for girls, and has just opened one of the handsomest school buildings in the Republic on the outskirts of the city, for boys. This church has also a boarding school for girls in Mexico City, in a building equally fine. Other good schools there are, such as the "Friends'" school at Victoria; the Presbyterian schools at Montemorelos, and the Congregational school at Guadalajara.

The Deputation are agreed unanimously that as fast as our resources will permit we should aim at the development of an educational system in connection with our mission in Mexico, comprising the following features:

- A. The enlargement of the work of theological instruction.
- B. The establishment of a boarding school in some central location, for boys and girls, similar to the school at Cristo, Cuba.
- C. The maintenance of a day school on each important mission field.
- D. As a guiding principle the training of Christian workers should be kept steadily in mind, and equipment should be provided, not for large numbers, but for small numbers carefully selected with reference to this main purpose.

It is of course understood that the educational work here outlined could not all be attempted at once. It will probably take several years to put the plan into complete operation, but it appears to us that it is important that what educational work we do should be done in accordance with this definite policy.

For the immediate future the Deputation would recommend the following:

1. That an attempt be made to unite with the Foreign Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in the work of theological education. The cordial relations existing on the field among the workers of our two Baptist Boards encourage the belief that some feasible plan of work can be agreed upon. A conference was held in Mexico City upon this subject with missionaries of both Boards, and as a result a committee was appointed by the National Baptist Convention, then in session, to confer with the representatives of our Boards looking to a union theological school. The Boards will be approached by this committee in the near future. The National Convention appeared to our company to be a body of much strength and vitality which might serve as a unifying element in the work of our two Boards.
2. In the event of a conference being held between representatives of our Boards operating in Mexico we recommend that our representation in that conference be instructed to raise the question of the possibility of further co-operation:
 - (a) In the maintenance of a department of instruction in Sunday School work, and methods in connection with the theological school.

(b) In the maintenance of a Baptist Publishing House.

An active propaganda for the improvement of the Sunday Schools in our churches in the Republic is a need deeply felt by our missionaries. The Foreign Board of the Southern Convention is maintaining a publishing house with good initial equipment at Leon. One plant is ample for all our work, and a union of forces in the work of publication seems eminently desirable.

3. That a boarding school for girls be opened next year in the premises now occupied by the day school in Mexico City. This house could, with the expenditure of \$600 (gold) for equipment, be made to accommodate comfortably some 10 or 12 boarding pupils. For the permanent home of such a school, a location in the heart of a large city is not desirable. A site in some suburban town affording room for a school for boys, as well as girls, and an ample campus is necessary for the best work.

4. That day schools be established next year at the following points and in the following order: At Puebla, where, as indicated above, a good start has been made; at Aguascalientes, where our missionary is building solidly, and where there is every prospect of immediate success in school work; at Montemorelos, where we already have the necessary equipment, and where school work was suspended some years ago. Schools are also urgently needed at San Luis Potosi, Tampico and Oaxaca and should, if possible, be established the following year.

These day schools should not be regarded as competing in any way with the Mexican Public Schools. Their aim is entirely different. They are evangelizing agencies of proved value, and selective agencies whence come our best workers. The splendid results of the school at Monterey, out of which some twelve young men have come to enter the native ministry, and similar results in other places afford a sufficient justification of these schools and their maintenance by a Christian body.

It is not proposed to furnish buildings for these schools. The rooms occupied by the Sunday Schools will, in most cases, be ample, and by using them every day, property that would otherwise be idle during the week will be used to advantage. Thus also if at any time it should seem best to discontinue these schools, there will be no unused property on our hands.

5. That a division of this educational work between the societies be made such as exists in Cuba, whereby the maintenance of the day schools, and for the present the boarding school for girls, be assumed by the Woman's Society, leaving the support of the theological school and of the boarding school for boys, when established, to the Home Mission Society.

VIII. Medical Work

A good beginning has been made in the form of work which is so exactly in line with that of the Master Himself.

(a) Dr. C. E. Conwell, our medical missionary in Mexico City, is a skillful surgeon and physician of broad experience, with a large acquaintance and practice. His wife is studying medicine. Both have a dominating evangelistic purpose. A plan should be provided for this expanding work. There is no hospital in Mexico City where evangelistic religious work can be done.

Dr. Conwell is now in the employ of our Society, but he came to Mexico under a strong impulsion of duty without the backing of any Society. He remains in like spirit in spite of repeated offers of a salaried, professional position in his home city in the United States at many times

his income as a missionary. Mrs. Conwell devotes her exceptional gifts in the same spirit. They are now conducting large free clinics connected with religious services, both at his office, on San Francisco Avenue, and at the chapel in Guadalupe, and are reaching more cases of need than any other physician in Mexico City. God himself has given us the work and the workers. We must provide a place where the work can be done. The value of Christian hospital work as an auxiliary evangelizing agency has been abundantly demonstrated in other mission fields in Mexico and elsewhere.

We recommend that steps be taken at once for the establishment and maintenance of a hospital in the immediate neighborhood of Mexico City.

(b) In Puebla, medical work has recently been opened. The physician in charge has been compelled to leave the field on account of illness. There is a good opening for medical work in this important city and we may well expect great blessings here also on this most Christlike method of work.

(c) At San Luis Potosi we have a good church house, two promising outstations (one in a populous slum district, the other in a needy suburb), and an earnest Mexican pastor. The field is ripe for an American missionary physician.

IX. Woman's Field Work

A large part of the work of our Woman's Society is educational and is covered in section seven of this report. The present section concerns only what is distinguished as "Field Work."

We have in the City of Mexico and its suburbs six points where efficient evangelistic work is being done. At Gaudalupe, that stronghold of Catholicism, we have in addition to the day school, a vigorous Sunday School and weekly prayer meeting. These are conducted by Mrs. Conwell who, with her husband, a skillful physician, gives medical aid to any who will come to them before these two services. Also, each day, from 10 to 12, in their downtown office, they give time to the poor for consultation and dispensary work. The brief Bible lesson which always precedes the medical help, offers a great opportunity for good. As many of these cases as possible are followed to their homes. The San Pablo Mission, in one of the poorest districts of the city, under the care of one of our oldest native workers, is doing excellent service in industrial and Sunday School work, giving access as all this work does to the homes. The crowded condition of the room now occupied is a great hindrance to the growth of the work. We must find a larger and better place. Another worker has rendered most effective service in reaching the better class of young men and women through evening classes in English and Bible. In Miscoax, one of the best suburbs of the city, is our newest mission with industrial and Sunday School work. Recently a Sunday School has been opened in our day school building in the city. This is largely attended and is reaching another group of children. With scarcely an exception, these children come from Catholic homes, but the parents are so anxious that their children shall have educational and industrial advantages that they will brave the displeasure of the priests and send them. We are gratified to find that our representatives in Mexico City are doing such good work and that there is among them such a beautiful spirit of harmony and co-operation.

In Puebla we have one field worker only, but her knowledge of medicine gives her a twofold influence upon the hearts of these poor and needy people.

In Aguascalientes the Society supports one field worker, a native Mexican, a woman of fine character and tact. Her work among her own people in the church, and also among the Americans, is spoken of in the highest terms.

In San Luis Potosi we have had no missionary for some time, but on October 1st one of the Mexican graduates of the Training School is to begin work in connection with the church there. It was in a mission of this church, Encarnacion, that they so recently suffered great persecution, so there is special need of wise and diligent work.

At Nuevo Laredo we have one native worker co-operating with the pastor in the church work.

We have in Mexico a splendid corps of women, both native and American. We rejoice in what they are and in what they are doing for this great Republic, so full of opportunity and promise.

X. Church Edifice Work

We now have at our mission stations in the Republic 15 church buildings, valued at \$95,322.50 (gold). This leaves nearly fifty other stations with nothing better than rented quarters.

(a) Monterey is the oldest and strongest of our mission fields. The church numbers over three hundred and is the largest evangelical church in the Republic. The Sunday School numbers over 200. The building will seat only about 200 comfortably, and the school rooms in the basement are manifestly too small for effective work in either the Sunday School or day school.

The Monterey church and school should be immediately equipped with a building of sufficient size and architectural proportion to preach its own Gospel. The recent floods at Monterey have greatly weakened the financial ability of the church. But it owns two pieces of property of nearly equal size and about four blocks apart. The original property on which stands the present church building is valued at \$15,000 (gold), the new lot at \$3,500.

There are about \$11,500 now available for building and equipment, \$10,000 being a grant already made by the Home Mission Society. A building covering the entire new lot, and accommodating the church with 500 sittings, the Sunday School with 500 sittings, the day school with space for 500 pupils, and the theological seminary with space for 20 students and dormitories for same, can be built from plans already in hand for \$25,000. If to the \$11,500 now available could be added, say \$2,500, as a loan from the American Baptist Home Mission Society, with an extension of present loan of \$2,500, there would be available \$14,000 which, with probably local help, could be increased to \$15,000, leaving the house and lot now occupied by the church for use during the building period and, if possible, to be sold during that time for money enough to complete the new structure. If the sale could not be effected, the plans could be drawn so that accommodations for day school and Sunday School could be completed, leaving the audience room to be completed when the lot was sold, or the church and basement could be finished, leaving the new Sunday School room and provision for theological seminary to be built when lot was sold. The advantages of this plan over rebuilding on the old lot are opportunity for immediate beginning, use of old plant while building, and reduction of aid required from Society to so reasonable an amount that it could be granted at once.

(b) Tampico is one of the newest and most promising of our fields. A capable American missionary is gathering a Mexican church of unusually good material, and is at the same time developing an important English-speaking work in this great gateway of the Republic. We have an ideally located lot and ought to appropriate \$5,000 (gold) at once toward a building.

(c) The growth of both the Mexican and American Baptist churches in Mexico City makes it impossible for them to longer occupy the same building with advantage. There is room at the side of the present church building to construct an addition seating 200 people. This could be made to accommodate the American Baptist Church and Sunday School for the present. The whole structure would appear as one harmonious building, only of more impressive proportions than now.

The building, as planned, would cost, with furnishings, from \$4,000 to \$5,000 (gold). It is recommended that the Home Mission Society contribute \$2,000 toward the building, provided the American Church pay the balance of the cost. There are some ten thousand Americans in Mexico City. No minister there has larger space accorded to his Gospel messages by the English newspapers of the capital than Pastor Brown, of our American Church. The President of the Republic witnessing an athletic game in the new Y. M. C. A. building, asked who the American player was. When told that it was this Baptist missionary, he expressed cordial gratification and gratitude for such wholesome leadership given to Mexican young men.

(d) Our promising work in Oaxaca is housed in a rented building which can be bought now for \$3,000 (gold). It is well adapted for both church and school work. We are paying \$288 rental per annum. That is the equivalent of nearly 10 per cent. interest on what it would cost to buy it. To purchase the property would be a safe investment, even though it should be sold later to secure a more expensive site.

XI. American Colonists

There are twenty or more colonies of American agricultural settlers in Mexico. At Medina, in southern Mexico, we have an organized church. In several other places we have provided occasional preaching. The Deputation visited the San Dieguito settlement, in eastern Mexico. Conditions prevail and needs exist similar to those in new settlements of the western United States. There is, however, a strong additional reason for endeavoring to make the Gospel triumphant over the forces of evil. The Mexican authorities foster these colonies and watch them closely. Mexicans in general assume that these communities represent Protestant Christianity. We ought to provide at least one of the workers needed for the colonists. All interests involved, including economy, would seem to be best served by assigning to this work, while they are learning the Spanish language, young men who have consecrated their lives to Mexico. Our work for Americans in cities, which has been considered in section ten, strongly confirms this view. All missionaries in Mexico from the United States should be expected to acquire as fast as possible mastery of the Spanish language.

XII. Volunteer Work

In Monterey is Miss Hole, a Baptist lady of some means, who has built herself a home there and has learned the Spanish language in order to advance the cause of Christ as a self-supporting missionary. She is

helping in our training school for ministers and in many other ways. There are scores of others in the churches of the United States, so situated that they could do likewise. It would give to life a new and noble zest, making it actually divine like the life of Christ himself. The Deputation issues a call for such women to help leaven Mexico with the kingdom of heaven.

Since Dr. Josiah Strong's visit to South America he has written concerning the great business opportunities there for enterprising, educated **young men**, and has suggested that Christian college men, who are not drawn to the ministry so-called, consecrate themselves for Christ's sake to business or professional careers in Latin America. Our Deputation to Mexico is convinced that this is one of the great calls of God in the twentieth century for high, heroic, altruistic endeavor. As compared with this the work of Cortez and his comrades was poor and paltry. In these days of the Panama Canal and of the Bureau of American Republics a call may well ring through college halls for the enlistment of a company of modern **Conquistadores**. As Cortez scuttled his ships that there might be no retreat in his destructive conquest, the chivalry of the Kingdom of God ought now to enter Mexico with inflexible determination for peaceful, constructive conquest.

XIII. Some Guiding Principles

1. Our mission is the proclamation of a positive Gospel and the injection of its principles in the life of the people. Sometimes mental surgery is necessary. Obstructions to vital processes have to be removed. Essentially, however, we are not in Mexico to tear down an old theology, but to build up a new life. We commend our missionaries in reducing controversy to the lowest degree. So far as possible let it be eliminated. This principle has double application in relation to fellow evangelicals.

2. If the majority of the people were never to become Protestants, we should still have an imperative duty to build up the strongest evangelical communities possible for the sake of setting a pace and lifting a standard toward which the whole professedly Christian public would be inevitably drawn. The Roman Catholic Bishop in another portion of Latin America said to the writer of this paragraph: "Your work here is doing us good, it is stimulating us to do better work ourselves." The embodiment of Christ's ideal is our supreme ministry. Incarnation is the great work of God.

3. The hope for Mexico is through an indigenous Christianity. We rejoice in the exceptionally strong Mexican ministers whom God has given us. Our great cry to the Lord of the harvest must be that he thrust forth more such into the field. Ministerial selection and training are vital.

The long steps which some of the churches have taken toward self-support inspire great hopes that evangelical Christianity is taking root in Mexico. On an average about 20 per cent. of all salaries paid to our Mexican workers is raised on their fields. The Deputation recommends the formulation of a specific policy, looking toward self-support and pastors' salaries. Possibly by insisting on a gradual reduction each year of the amount appropriated to each field, this might be accomplished. Self-support should be a definite policy, and all self-respecting churches should strive for that end.

4. Distribution of the leaven must be studied. The importance of seizing strategic centers of large population cannot be overestimated. But we wonder if we have paid as much attention as we ought to the towns

of from 3,000 to 10,000 people where no one is working. Large results at small outlay may be possible in some such places.

5. For the next few critical years nothing less than a steadily aggressive policy is justifiable. We ought to open up at least two new points of promise each year, especially such places as are not worked by any other denomination. It is thought that one point with a native worker, and another with an American missionary can be opened at a cost of \$2,500.

"The hope of Mexico as a nation lies in the success of Protestant missions," said Juarez, the great reforming President of Mexico. The hope of Baptists in the United States as sincere followers of Christ is in earnestly loving these near and needy national neighbors.

XIV. Actions Recommended

A. By Both Societies.

1. That each Society agree to the division of educational work in Mexico, whereby the Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society assumes the support of the teachers in the day schools and, for the present, the teachers in the boarding school for girls, and the American Baptist Home Mission Society, the theological school, and the boys' school when established.

2. That in view of the new relations of the United States to Spanish-speaking lands, the American Baptist Home Mission Society and the Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society respectfully suggest to Baptist academies and colleges that instruction in Spanish be provided, even, if necessary, in place of some language less vital at the present juncture of American life. If to the nearly 10,000,000 Spanish-speaking people now under the flag of the United States in Porto Rico and the Philippines we add our near neighbors in North America, to say nothing of South America, 25,000,000 people in closest relations with us use the Castilian tongue.

3. That a regular system of graded examinations of all missionaries from the United States in the Spanish language be used at the ends of their three first years of service.

4. That the Guiding Principles suggested in section thirteen be adopted.

5. That Latin North America have a large presentation at the next anniversaries.

B. By the American Baptist Home Mission Society.

1. That the Society looks with favor on the action of the National Baptist Convention of Mexico proposing that there be but one Baptist Theological Seminary in the Republic, to be conducted jointly by the Mexico Baptist Convention, the American Baptist Home Mission Society, and the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

2. That the wives of missionaries from the United States be commissioned, though without salaries.

3. That there be placed in the missionary budget of 1911 for new work:

For the opening of two new stations.....	\$2,500
For salary and expenses of a medical missionary at San Luis Potosi.	1,500
For a missionary to work at present among American Colonists....	800
For work at Encarnacion.....	1,000
For a special evangelistic survey in the State of Oaxaca.....	75
Total	\$5,875

4. That there be placed in the Church Edifice budget of 1911:

For addition to the meeting house in Mexico City.....	\$2,000
For the renovation of the existing portion of the house.....	1,000
For a church house at Tampico.....	5,000
Total	\$8,000
Additional loan on Monterey building.....	\$2,500

5. That a special item be placed in the budget:

For a hospital site and building.....	\$10,000
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6. That there be placed in the Educational budget of 1911:

For equipment of new day schools.....	\$600
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C. By the Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society.

1. That the Society approve of the opening of a boarding school for girls in the premises now occupied in Mexico City.

2. That a matron be appointed for the boarding school in addition to the present staff of the day school.

3. That teachers be appointed to have entire charge of the day schools at Puebla, Aguascalientes and Montomorelos, under the supervision of the General Missionary in co-operation with the Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society.

4. That there be placed in the budget of 1911 of the Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society for new work:

For salary of matron in girls' boarding department of the school in Mexico City.....	\$400
For teachers in day school in Puebla.....	1,000
For teachers in day school in Aguascalientes.....	500
For American teacher in day school in Monterey.....	500
For teachers in day school in Montomorelos.....	600
Total	\$3,000

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